

## John Armstrong to Andrew Jackson, January 3, 1814, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### JOHN ARMSTRONG TO JACKSON.1

1 Copy.

War Dept January 3, 1814

*Sir* . . . . It is thought most advisable under all circumstances that the construction given to their engagements by the organized Volunteers of 1812 be admitted. In no case however have Volunteers of the same description refused to make good three hundred and sixty five days. The Militia may be considered as having been called into service under the law of 1795 which limits the service to three months. The President is the more disposed to make this Decision as the State law provides that a period of three months shall be deemed a tour of Duty and as the Spirit and Patriotism of Tennessee leaves no doubt but that a succession of corps competent to the object of Government will be regularly provided.2 . . . .

2 Armstrong, writing to Governor Blount, Jan. 31, 1814, said that the paymaster of the army would be ordered to pay the Tennessee troops just discharged. But Blount did not act in the matter, and on Mar. 23 again wrote to the Secretary of War for instructions. Armstrong wrote him Apr. 15, 1814, as follows:

“The President is pleased to authorize your Excellency to discharge from the service of the United States, the Militia alluded to, if they have not been already discharged by General Pinckney. My letter of the 3d. Jany. last was intended to operate as an instruction on this subject—it contained the decision of the President in the case, and was addressed to your

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Excellency as the functionary having the best means of making it known to the parties concerned.”

It was not until May 20, 1814, when the campaign had come to a successful close, that Governor Blount at last gave the order to Col. Robert Hayes which effected the discharge of these volunteers.